

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
CAMP BARRETT INSPECTION REPORT
2008 inspection; completed in February 2009

Facility Name: CAMP BARRETT

Inspection Date: 2/18/2009

Superintendent: James A. Seal
Address: 21077 Lyons Valley Road
Alpine, CA 9190

Last Inspection Date: 12/17/2007
Telephone Number: (619) 401-4900
Fax (619) 401-4921

Type of Facility: Juvenile Camp

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Honorable Susan Huguenor

Staff Interviewed:
James Seal, Superintendent

Facility Capacity: 156
Population on inspection date: 150
Average population: 150

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:
Andrea Dixon

Commission Inspection Team:
Kriste Draper

Comments and Recommendations:

The facility was immaculate. Teachers, probation officers and staff all seemed to genuinely love their job and the kids that they were working with. All staff seemed very excited about the opportunity Camp Barrett presented for rehabilitation and to spend time working with these young men.

Recommendations:

1. Provide funding for full-time psychologist. Currently the facility has only a psychologist for 30 hours/3 days a week.
2. Provide funding for parenting class. A successful pilot program from Children's Hospital was implemented.
3. Provide funding for more art therapy classes. Currently, this is only available to 20 kids at a time for an 8-week cycle.
4. Provide gang programming.
5. Provide weekly transportation out to Camp for families wishing to visit.

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths from other causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 3

Number of attempted escapes: 0

Date of Last Fire Drill: Fire and earthquake drill done twice monthly

Local Inspections: Fire Marshall, Title 15, and Grand Jury

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Camp Barrett is isolated at the bottom of a large hill far outside of town with a very peaceful quality to it. The camp is quiet and well kept. The layout is an 'open campus' where the young men can walk from dorm to school to the cafeteria. A fence surrounds the property. One dorm is fenced off from the others, as Camp Barrett used to double as an INS holding facility for adults; the adults needed to be separated both physically and visually from the juveniles at camp. There are three dorms (Alpha, Charlie, Delta), each holding 50 youths. Each youth has his own bunk in these dorms and space to store personal items. Laundry is done once a week, and the young men are responsible for ironing and shining their shoes. The boys looked very comfortable in their dorms and on their beds.

Population

The population hovers very consistently at 150 youths at Camp Barrett. There is a constant waiting list for the camp, so any time a youth leaves the camp for discipline, program completion or otherwise, a new youth is sent up to fill his spot. The population is generally made up of older boys (ages 16½ - 21) who have committed serious crimes (felonies). At times, Camp Barrett will take a 16 year old but, generally, boys ages 12-16½ go to Campo or another program through Breaking Cycles. The average length of stay for the young men is about 4½ months, with the average commit being 270 days.

Staffing

Camp Barrett is staffed with 62 officers, with 31 officers on at a time. Barrett runs two 12-hour shifts from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. with three officers working 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. to add extra staff during the times the youths are awake and out of school. Each Correctional Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) carries a caseload of young men that they meet and work with individually.

Medical

Camp Barrett is staffed by a nurse seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. These nurses hand out medicine, draw blood, do physicals, keep immunization records and handle all day-to-day health issues that the youths may have. The nurse has 24-hour access to the doctor on call for Juvenile Hall, and a doctor comes out to Camp Barrett once a week. The nurse maintains all the young men's medical records and this information is kept secure and confidential at all times. One of the nurse's major roles is to handout pills to the youths four times a day. A strict protocol is followed to ensure that each youth receives and swallows his medication and does not 'cheek' the medication and save it for later or for trade. The nurse estimated that 20-25% of the Barrett population was on psychiatric medication and another 10-15% of the population took other types of medication.

In case of an emergency, the California fire fighters are first to respond and then an ambulance from Alpine, which usually takes about 20 minutes to arrive.

Camp Barrett does not have an on-site psychiatrist. Instead, there is a room with a video screen where a youth can talk with the psychiatrist over the television screen. Youths who need to see the psychiatrist for routine medication review meet via conference once a month. The conferences are private, with the probation officer sitting outside watching the youth through the window for safety. The psychiatrist then directs the nurse as to any medication changes/deletions/additions. Those needing evaluation for medications or a major change in medications are sent to East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, where they will be seen by the psychiatrist.

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Schooling

Camp Barrett has its own school high school and GED program. All the youths at Camp Barrett who have not received their diploma or GED must attend school. Young men who have already graduated from high school or received their GED are assigned to work full time around the camp.

School runs five days a week with 12 teachers overseeing the youths' studies. Students rotate class rooms and schedules and have the option of taking different electives. Teachers work very hard to provide appropriate education for all grade levels (grades 9-12) for the students. The classroom the inspecting Commissioner entered was exactly what would be seen in a 'regular' high school. Students sat at their desks engaged with their teacher as they figured out the economic effects of the down-turned economy. Students were smiling and there was good banter between the Commissioner, the teacher and the students. Probation officers remain on duty outside the classroom doors at all times.

Barrett High School does have a special education program and a teacher on staff who runs a remedial reading program based on the Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes. The only staffing the school lacks is teachers aides as the Camp cannot find anyone who wants to make the daily commute out to Camp Barrett for the level of pay given to teacher aides.

Regional Occupations Programs (ROPs)

Camp Barrett runs four ROPs, with the newest program, Horticulture, just getting up and running. Each dorm is assigned to one ROP program (one dorm has two ROP programs) with all youth in that dorm participating in that ROP program. Youth may apply to transfer dorms and participate in another ROP program if they wish.

Fire Academy – Teaches about wild fires and fire fighting techniques. The young men may receive certificates for their course completion that enables them to apply for fire fighting jobs.

Building/Ground Maintenance – Teaches landscaping skills to get them ready for the landscaping industry.

Culinary Arts – Prepares youths for jobs in the food industry. Upon completion of the course, youths can take their ServSafe Certification test or their Food Handlers certification which will help them get jobs in the food and service industry. They are also eligible for their Food Handler's Card and an ROP Certificate.

Horticulture – This is a new program at Camp Barrett where youths learn how to grow their own produce and other farming techniques. Youths will be allowed to prepare and eat the food that they grow.

After School Programming - Camp Barrett runs several after-school programs for the youths. Seven days a week there is something going on that the boys can be involved in.

Programs:

- **Fire Science**
- **Catholic Church Services** – Youths may practice any religion they choose and accommodations will be made to allow for such practice. (For example: requests were made to fast for Ramadan and the cooking staff prepared special meals to fit the youths' fasting needs.)
- **Catholic Counseling Services**
- **AA/NA Meetings**
- **Christian Church Services**
- **Drama**

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- **Substance Abuse** – All young men at Camp Barrett must attend a substance abuse class. At the end of that class, the instructor determines whether or not the child needs more in-depth drug and alcohol treatment. If so, the youth takes another class for youths with more need for treatment.
- **Conflict Managers** – This is a program for nine youths at a time to teach them conflict management skills. The youths are then empowered to work with their peers helping to de-escalate conflicts within the camp. The Commissioner spoke with one of the youth conflict managers about his role and he stated he enjoyed being a conflict manager. He said the program is open to all the boys at camp, even those who were once the ones causing the trouble as they often make the best conflict managers. He said that he liked his role because he could talk with his peers and help sort out the problems and get things calmed down before the entire camp would have to go on lock down. The probation officer on duty also agreed with the conflict manager stating that, often the youth would not listen to the officers, but would listen to their peers.
- **Teen Relationship Violence** – All boys at Camp Barrett must attend this program. If, at the end of the program, the instructor feels a youth may benefit from further relationship counseling, there is smaller group instruction that is provided.
- **Work Readiness Program** – This is an eight-week program where the young men learn job and interview skills, how to write résumés and look for a job. The instructor works with the youths two days a week and then is available out in the community the other three days a week for youths that have left Camp Barrett and are looking for jobs, housing, schooling and other resource support. This program has been incredibly successful and holds huge value in helping these youths transition out of Camp Barrett and back into mainstream society.

Recreation

All youths receive recreation time. One dorm has its own basketball court and phone set up behind the dorm which leaves the other two dorms to share the larger court and phones provided near the office for phone calls. The youths also have an indoor rec room that was recently re-floored, with a TV and games tables that they can use. There is also much revered weight-training equipment outside. Youths take special care to maintain this equipment as they know it will not be replaced. Probation staff also work closely with the community to take the young men on outings. For example, later this month, youths will be attending a dance show put on by UCSD.

Discipline

There are no weapons at Camp Barrett (staff are armed with OC spray). The minimum staff-to-youth ratio maintained at Camp during the day is 1:15, and 1:30 ratio at night. Camp Barrett practices progressive discipline. If a boy is in need of discipline for acting out, fighting, etc., there are levels of punishment that are followed. The youth may be counseled, wear an orange vest for the day identifying him as having a temporary behavior problem. Staff can also remove a youth's free time or have a youth sit at a separate table and have a 'quiet' meal. If poor behavior persists, Barrett staff may hold an administrative hearing and remove some of the youth's good time (this is time off of the original length of the sentence for good behavior, generally 1/3 of their overall time). Staff also have the option of sending a youth back to Juvenile Hall for a "cooling off" period and, if warranted, charging the youth with a probation violation if he fails to complete his court-ordered requirements. Staff may also have the boy returned to Juvenile Hall and file new charges if he commits a new crime while at Camp Barrett. For example, a young man destroyed one of the brand new windows in the Camp office; he was brought to Juvenile Hall and charged with destruction of property.

There is a very clear grievance policy within Camp Barrett where youths may submit a claim that they have been treated unfairly by the staff. Each dormitory has a 'grievance' box and sheets of paper for the boys to fill out the complaint. The only thing that youths are not allowed to file grievances for is rule violations as this has its own appeal process. The complaint is then sent to the specific probation officer the claim is against. (For example: a youth misses his free time.) The youth and the probation officer then meet to try and resolve the issue. If the youth and officer cannot resolve the issue, a third

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party officer is brought in to try and find a solution. If still not resolved, the issue is brought up to a supervisor and, finally, the director of Camp Barrett. Such instances in the past have then resulted in staff-wide training to address the matter.

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No.

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?

No.

STAFFING

Staff-to-Child Ratio:

At least 1 staff to 15 children when awake and 1 staff to 30 children when sleeping.

INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Yes.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained.

Yes.

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

Yes.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Yes.

Is Staff present and supervising?

Yes.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

Yes.

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

The boys are allowed to share and trade food. There doesn't seem to be an issue with the young men being picked on or losing their food.

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PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Youths appeared clean and well-kept. Youths built a storage locker for their clothes and appeared comfortable in what they were wearing.

Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?

Youths shower every day.

VISITING

Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?

Visiting occurs once a week on Sunday. There is a nice picnic area set up for these visits. One of the major barriers would be transportation for visitors. Camp Barrett is very isolated and a car is needed to reach the facility.

SCHOOL

Atmosphere of classroom:

Youths were smiling and participating when the Commissioner entered the classroom. They were relaxed and engaged and it was evident that learning was taking place. Youths were happy to joke with the Commissioner and shared what they were learning in class.

Number of minors not attending. Reason:

The only young men not attending school were those that had already graduated high school or had completed their GED and were working full time around the camp.

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